

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property First National Bank Building

historic name _____

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 302 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Creedmoor

N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NCcounty Granvillecode 077zip code 27522

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
<u>1</u>	_____ objects
_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of
Granville County, N.C.Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official William S. Fair, Jr.Date 6-14-88

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: financial institution
: restaurant
: speciality store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure
Commerce/Trade: speciality store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Beaux Arts

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

Firmly ensconced on Main Street, Creedmoor's major thoroughfare, the imposing First National Bank Building is the only example of Beaux Arts style architecture in Granville County outside of Oxford. Solidly built of brick, the two-story tall building turns a handsomely finished main facade to the street. Bricks lighter and more brown in color than the red bricks of the rear and side facades face the front elevation. At the first floor they are laid in raised, rusticated patterns that are most fanciful at the elevation's northern half, the former home of the First National Bank. Two doorways and a broad centered window, each topped with traceried fanlights, serve the former banking room and lead into the central enclosed stairwell. Raised bands of brick cross the entire first floor front elevation, exploded in sunbursts over the three round-arched openings. An ornate metal cornice projects out from the front facade. Heavily molded, adorned with modillion blocks and marked in large metal letters with the legend "First National Bank Building," the cornice is decorated in a fashion equal to the brickwork one story below. The remainder of the building is more simply finished. Segmental-arches top the five windows that span the second floor of the front facade. The sides and rear of the building, laid in common bond rather than the stretcher bond of the front facade, are also simply finished, their flush walls broken by segmental-arched windows and topped by the parapet walls that conceal the building's flat roof. An altered store front, featuring new brick veneer and windows, occupies the southern half of the first floor; its brickwork originally matched that of the banking half of the front facade.

Inside, the building retains a number of original features, even though it has housed a variety of functions over its 75 year history. The former banking room, now the sanctuary of a Baptist congregation and filled with pews, has had its banking cages removed but still retains its original tongue and groove wainscoting and rear six-panel doors, which are set in surrounds edged by cornerblocks. The bank vault is also still in place. The room to the rear of the main banking room is now used as an office, rather than as a home to the bank's manager.¹ The other half of the first floor, home in the past to such enterprises as a restaurant and hardware store, is now filled with auto parts. Auto parts also occupy the upstairs, which nonetheless retains

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the turned balusters of its straight run of stairs and the glass-filled transoms of the doorways that open off of its central hallway.

¹The Raleigh News and Observer, in a February 3, 1940, article entitled "The Dollar in Creedmoor," taken from Fortune, described the bank as follows:

It [a branch of the Durham Bank & Trust Company] pays today \$10 per month for use of the old bank building.

Inside is a single big room partitioned by an iron cage having windows still marked "Cashier," "Teller," and "Bookkeeper."

This, however, is mere front, of which all bankers are notoriously fond. The fact is that the Creedmoor branch of the Durham Bank & Trust Company is run by one man, young G. B. Spence, an affable graduate of the University of North Carolina, who sleeps in a room right in the rear of the bank building, warming himself in Winter by a large wood stove.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Commerce

1912-1937

1912

Architecture

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clegg, Robert

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former First National Bank Building of Creedmoor is historically significant as the earliest surviving bank building in Granville County outside of Oxford and as a symbol of small town county life and the enterprises that supported it. (See Historic Context 3 - Bright Leaf Tobacco and the Ascendancy of Oxford, 1866-1937 - and Associated Property Type 5.C. - Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Religious Buildings in Bright Leaf Era Oxford) Further, the 1912 Beaux Arts style building is architecturally significant as the most finely finished early twentieth century commercial building surviving in Granville County outside of the county seat. (See Associated Property Type 4 - Romantic, Victorian and Eclectic Style Buildings in Oxford) The bank's establishment was based upon the growth and marketing of bright leaf tobacco and it also held much of the wealth generated by Creedmoor's substantial trade in mules, the mules that pulled the plows that cultivated the bright leaf.¹ Although the building served the surrounding community as a bank until 1977 and retains its handsome Beaux Arts style facade largely intact, its significance is not extended within the past 50 years because it has not achieved exceptional importance within that time.

A late nineteenth and early twentieth century town dominated by Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and bungalow style buildings, Creedmoor is the product of bright leaf tobacco and the bounty it brought the region. Its physical and architectural growth was spurred by the Seaboard Air Line Railway that reached through it in the 1880s; only two buildings raised prior to the Civil War - a small log house and a large Greek Revival style dwelling altered in Queen Anne fashion around the turn of the century - are known to survive within its limits.² With a small but active population of 304 in 1910, the town was poised for expansion early in the twentieth century.³ In 1905 it incorporated and it received its imposing bank building in 1912.⁴

The bank's three memorial cornerstones list the names of its 11 original directors and that of its builder, Robert Clegg; its 1912 date of construction; and the names of its first officers, G. T. Sikes, president, J. F. Sanderford, vice president, and W. B. Lasley, cashier.⁵ Initially the First National Bank - the name carved in the topmost of the stones and still announced in large letters beneath the overhanging cornice of its front facade - the bank operated under a number of names during its occasionally difficult history. In 1927, under the name of

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Planters Bank & Trust Company, it was sold by receivers to Merchants Bank of Durham [Deed Book 87, Page 268 and Deed Book 81, Page 588]. In 1929 it closed, but by 1933 it had reopened as a branch of the Durham Loan and Trust Company. In the 1940s its name was changed to Durham Bank and Trust and in the 1960s to Central Carolina Bank. Closed again in 1963, the bank was reopened by Union National Bank in 1969, which operated it until 1977, the last year it served as a bank.⁶ Its rooms are now house the Granville Independent Baptist Church.

From its inception, the building has been home to a variety of different enterprises, for banking activities only ever occupied the first floor of its northern end. The southern half of the building has housed a restaurant and a hardware store and is now occupied by an auto parts business. The latter business fills the second floor rooms as well, which over the years have served as offices, apartments and storage space.

The two-story tall building is a rare Granville County example of the Beaux Arts style. Built of red brick, the substantial structure has an additional veneer of lighter colored brick at its front elevation which is laid in heavily rusticated courses and sunbursts. Completing its Beaux Arts style finish is the heavy classical cornice that overhangs its second story. The only major alteration to its exterior is the store front of the southern first floor facade. The inside of the former banking room, even though it is now lined with pews, retains many original doors and surrounds and even the bank's vault.

¹The Raleigh News and Observer, in a February 3, 1940, article entitled "The Dollar in Creedmoor," taken from Fortune, wrote:

In a single year Creedmoor may trade \$500,000 worth of mules and it is known far and wide as "Mule Town." Partly because of its mules Creedmoor has always had a bank, and its banking history is that of many another town throughout the U.S.

²The log house is the Landis-Davis House; the Greek Revival style dwelling is the Lyon Family House.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2ACommerce Context

Context 3, "Bright Leaf Tobacco and the Ascendancy of Oxford 1866-1937," notes on page E.19 that Creedmoor was one of the three major small towns outside of Oxford that developed as the result of the railroad's arrival in the late 1880s. Each of these three, Creedmoor, Stem and Stovall, are still in existence and retain a small number of simply finished, Queen Anne residences. Little evidence of the commercial activity in these towns from the 1880s and 1890s remains. However, a small number of two-story, brick commercial buildings from the early twentieth century still stand. Elsewhere in Granville County, a number of towns sprang up along the tracks which are now sleepy crossroads, retaining a country store and gas station or two.

The fact that Creedmoor had its own bank by 1912 is remarkable, when compared with Oxford, which even as late as 1927 had only three banks. [B. W. Parham, "Sure-Footed Progress is Feature Oxford Industry," Durham Morning Herald, July 3, 1927]. The 1912 construction of the First National Bank of Creedmoor illustrates the optimism generated by Bright Tobacco at its zenith in the early twentieth century. Granville's economy began to lose momentum soon after the turn-of-the-century, with farmers moving west and children leaving for the city, and the county population increased only 16% between 1900 and 1930. While the economies of other towns and counties across North Carolina's Piedmont boomed, in Granville growth was gradual. In the 1880s, for example, Durham and Oxford had been towns similar in size. But by 1930 Durham's population was 52,035--nearly double that of all of Granville County. [Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Vol. 1, Population (Wash., 1931), pp. 780-782.

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³An article clipped from an unidentified newspaper of January 28, 1955, by Francis B. Hays and preserved at volume 37 of his collection of scrapbooks, briefly discusses the town's incorporation and credits it in part to a tobacco warehouse boom. At volume 34, Hays lists a variety of population figures for the county taken from the 1910 federal census.

Dr. J. F. Sanderford, who would go on to found the bank with Dr. G. F. Sikes, wrote a letter to the Oxford Public Ledger printed August 20, 1903, describing the vibrancy of the southern part of the county and Creedmoor at the opening of the century. He wrote in part:

In the first place, our railroad station, express and postoffice [sic] is Creedmoor, a station on the Durham and Northern Railroad, a branch of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, 16 miles from our county seat, Oxford; 17 miles from Durham . . . and in the centre of the finest tobacco producing section of the world. . . .

The business of Creedmoor is principally that of merchandise, the merchants being a clever, wholesouled set, doing a good business - as many dollars worth perhaps as any place of its size in the State owing to its very large back country inhabited by a progressive and industrious people. There are also in touch of the place several saw mills, some of them shipping car after car of lumber to Oxford, Durham and elsewhere every week. . . .

The fact is, if your readers did not know it, our little town is right now progressing and has a bright future ahead of it, and there is almost in sight the establishment of a bank, warehouse, etc., which all means a brighter period for the surrounding country, for any town that is not a help to its surrounding country is not what it ought to be.

⁴The deed recording the 1912 purchase by the First National Bank of Creedmoor of the lot upon which it was to raise its building is found at Deed Book 67, page 502; centrally located on Creedmoor's main thoroughfare, the lot sold for \$2,000.00.

⁵An advertisement of December 12, 1911, in the Oxford Banner stated that the bank had capital stock of \$25,000.00 and deposits of approximately \$90,000.00 and - in opposition to the cornerstones - that its president was Dr. J. F. Sanderford and its vice president Dr. G. T. Sikes.

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Whether or not Dr. Gerald T. Sikes (1857-1932) was president or vice president of the bank, he apparently died a respected man in the community. His obituary, clipped from what was probably a copy of the Oxford Ledger by Francis B. Hays and preserved at volume 71 of his collection, states that he graduated from Trinity College in Durham around 1878, received his medical degree from the University of Maryland and was a one-term president of the North Carolina Medical Society. It further states:

He was a generous [sic], whole-hearted fellow, and ministered to his neighbors and friends, the rich and poor alike, in his kindly sympathetic style, and was a blessing to that community, with his sympathy and skill, for more than 50 years. No physician was more sympathetic or faithful than Dr. Sikes; he cared as tenderly for those who were unable to compensate him as for his wealthiest patients. Dr. Sikes loved his friends and his profession; he was a warm-hearted man and showed this by his ever present smile and his hearty grasp of the hand.

⁶ Interviews on August 28, 1986, and October 16, 1987, with Christine Fuller. Ms. Fuller worked as a manager at the bank from 1944 through 1978; her father was the director of First National Bank in 1929 when it closed. See also "The Dollar in Creedmoor" in the News and Observer of February 3, 1940.

⁷ Interviews on August 28, 1986, October 16, 1987 and October 19, 1987, with Christine Fuller.

9. Major Bibliographical References

☒ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 17 708210 3999430
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the property, 62.2 feet by 100 feet, are described in the enclosed deed from Gordon F. and Doris C. O'Steen to Keith Arnold Dixon and Wendy Faye Dixon, dated November 26, 1985.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian
organization Granville -Oxford Historic Survey date 11/13/87
street & number P.O. Box 1556 (State Hist. Pres. Office) telephone 919-693-1491
city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565

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Section number 9 Page 1 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"An Appreciation." [Oxford Public Ledger] (March 22, 1932).
Copy of Dr. Gerald T. Sikes' obituary, preserved in the Hays
Collection at volume 71.

"Creedmoor Prepares to Mark Anniversary." Unidentified newspaper
(January 28, 1955). Article preserved in the Hays
Collection at volume 37.

"Creedmoor Progressing." Oxford Public Ledger (August 20, 1903).
Letter to the editor of J. F. Sanderford, preserved in the
Hays Collection at volume 33.

Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Hays, Francis B. Unpublished collection of 135 scrapbooks on
Granville County history located at the Richard H. Thornton
Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

Interviews with Christine Fuller on August 28, 1986, October 16,
1987, and October 19, 1987. Ms. Fuller was a manager of the
bank from 1944 through 1978. Her father was director of the
First National Bank in 1929 when it first closed.

Oxford Banner (December 12, 1911). Advertisement of First
National Bank of Creedmoor preserved on microfilm at the
Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

"The Dollar in Creedmoor" News and Observer (February 3, 1940).
Article, taken by the Raleigh paper from Fortune, located in
the Hays Collection at volume 34.

RTH CAROLINA
AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES
RTH CAROLINA

NW
M) HESTER 4 MI.

First National Bank Building

Granville County, N.C.

Quad: Creedmoor, N.C.

Scale: 1:24,000

A 17 708210 3999430

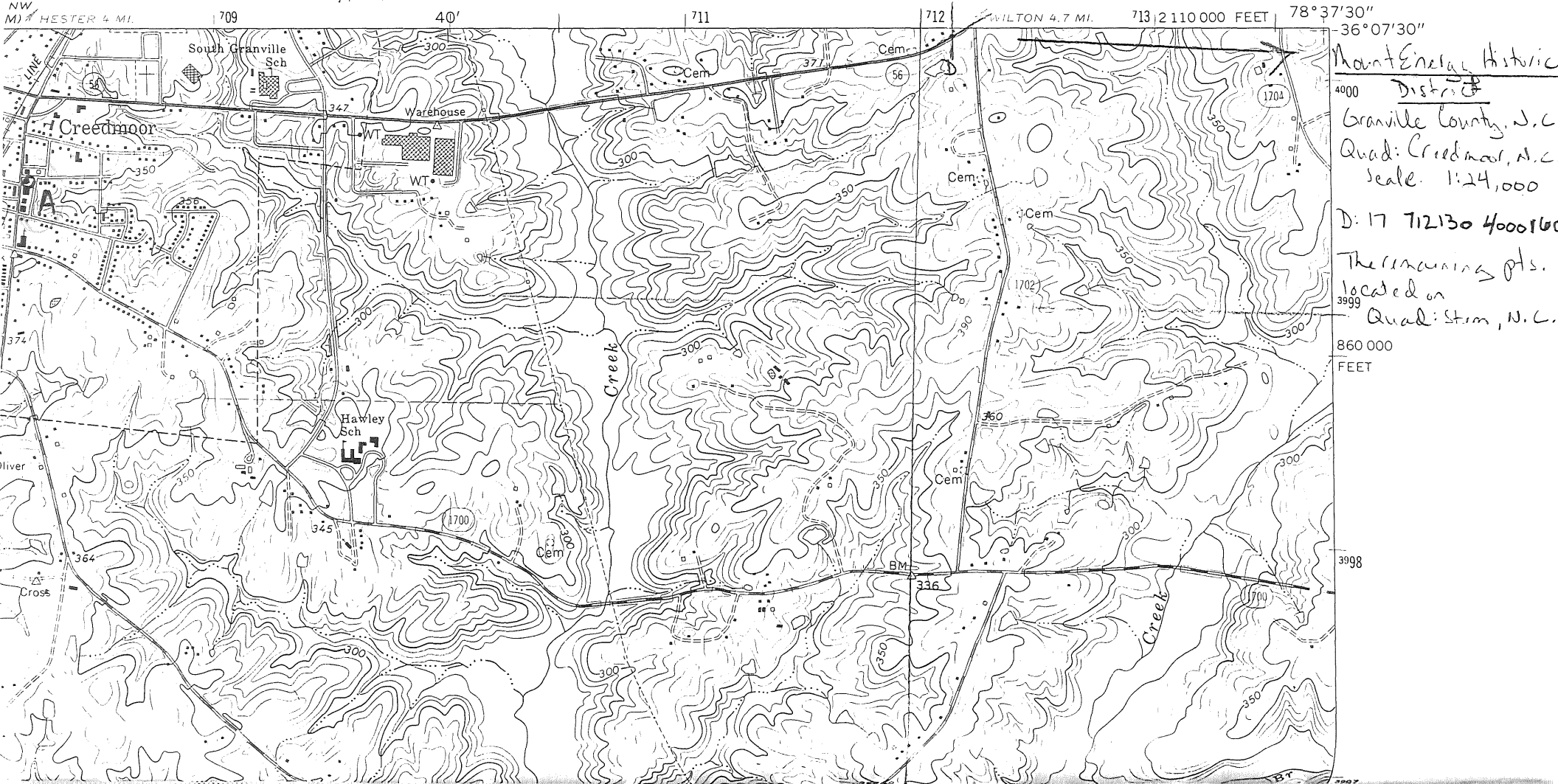
CREEDMOOR QUADRANGLE

NORTH CAROLINA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 CREEDMOOR 15' QUADRANGLE

5256 11 NE
(WILTON)



Mount Enola Historic

District

Granville County, N.C.

Quad: Creedmoor, N.C.

Scale: 1:24,000

D: 17 712130 4000160

The remaining pts.

located on

Quad: Stem, N.C.

860 000

FEET

